REMARKS

Claims 4-7 are currently pending and by this amendment have been amended to overcome the formal rejections to claims 4, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph). Specifically, claim 4 has been broadened to delete the objection to limitation on the running levels. Claim 5 has been amended to recite the source from which the running levels are created in a Markush group, and to be multiply dependent on both claim 1 and new claim 7. Further, claim 6 has been amended to provide greater clarity. Finally, new dependent claim 7 has been added to recite the limitation on the running levels originally in claim 1, in a Markush group. By these amendments, no new matter has been introduced into the claims.

On the merits, claims 4-6 (and presumably claim 7 had it been before the Examiner) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S.Patent No. 6,260,058 (Hoenninger et al.). The Examiner's arguments in support of this rejection are set out in item No. 6 on pages 3-6 of the Official Action and not herein repeated. Conceding solely for the purposes of this response the issue of whether Hoenninger et al. is an available prior art reference, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's grounds for rejection.

Hoenninger et al. (US 6,260,058 B1) discloses a control program subdivided into tasks. Each task has a priority and an activating event. Tasks may be divided into sub-tasks. The sub-tasks are worked-off sequentially. Priorities of sub-tasks can be assigned. The sequence of working-off sub-tasks can be fixed, i.e. sequenced. There is a task table with table pointer in which the entries to the tasks/sub-tasks are administered.

The present invention describes a sequential programming, in a program based

on:

- a waitForCondition construct

- a follow-up processing after waitForCondition() having a higher priority

up to an end determinable by the programmer.

This method allows a technological sequence:

- To prompt motion;

- To wait for event (high prior)

- After occurrence of event, high prior, e.g. to prompt a follow-up/
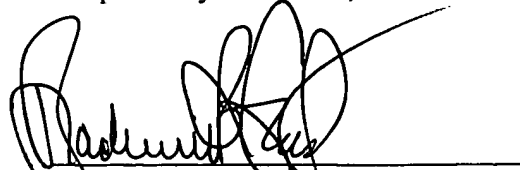
correction move; and

-To prepare the next cyclic sequence with lower prior; thus to be given closed

expression in a program. In contrast, in Hoenninger et al., several sub-tasks must be

defined to achieve a similar effect and thereby constitute a different programming

method.

Accordingly, in Hoenninger et al., the sequence is not achieved by way of a

sequential program as in the present invention. The sequence is expressed by the division

of tasks into sub-tasks and by fixing the running sequence of the sub-tasks. In the present

invention, the sequence is described in a closed program. There are no sub-tasks. The

meaning of a sequential program is clearly defined in specification, and differs distinctly

from Hoenninger et al.

The central point in Hoenninger et al. is the division of tasks into sub-tasks. These sub-tasks are also visible to the user, and by their arrangement (sequence) they describe the sequence of working-off. Another essential point is that a certain group of tasks interrupts the task only between sub-tasks. In the present invention, there are no sub-tasks. The sequential working-off arises directly in the program. Program "statements" such as "waitForCondition" temporarily change the task after occurrence of the Condition without explicit sub-tasks. While Hoenninger et al. does utilize the construct "waitForCondition. and in terms of semantic meaning, this is comparable to the present invention. However, the difference in the present invention is that the "waitForCondition," the priority of the task is raised, and the program sequence after "waitForCondition" is executed at higher priority. This makes possible the conformation of a sequence by a program, whereas in Hoenninger et al., the sequence property is attained by a concatenation of sub-tasks in a task. This is an entirely different matter from the programmer's point of view.

For all of the reasons expressed hereinabove, and in view of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims 4-7.

Respectfully submitted,

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